ALCATEL USA, INC. 972 477 9328 APR-26-2005 18:06 P.06/07

Serial No.: 09/987,376

Examiner: Stephen E. Jones

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 64, 66, 68, 71, 77, and 78 remain in this application.

All of the claims remaining in the application have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Ishitobi (JP 09148810) in view of Blum et al. (US 4,691,179). The

Examiner has stated that Ishitobi teaches a triple mode block resonator with shielding on the

outer surface, and that Blum teaches removed rectangular slot portions of the outer conductor.

Additionally Matsumoto et al. (US 2001/0028287) is cited with the rejection of canceled claims

67 and 76 to show a teaching of providing circular removed portions of the metallization of a

dielectric resonator.

Ishitobi, Blum, and Matsumoto do not address the problem of tuning a triple mode block

resonator. The special problem of such a resonator is that a change intended to change one

resonant frequency of the resonator is likely to change one of the other resonant frequencies as

well. Applicants have described how to achieve a resonator filter assembly wherein one

frequency is tuned without substantially altering the others.

Claim 64, and claims 66, 68, 71, and 78, dependent thereon, have been amended to

include the details of Applicants' resonator filter assembly. It is submitted that nothing found in

any of the cited references, individually or considered together, suggests the design of

Applicants' claimed invention or even the problem solved thereby. Accordingly, it is submitted

that these claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 77 has been amended to include features of Applicants' invention previously

recited in claims 40, 47, and 54, but not included in the present set of claims. Claims 40, 47, and

54 were not previously rejected based on prior art. Accordingly, it is believed claim 77 is in

condition for allowance.

132706

Page 5

PAGE 6/7 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 6:00:36 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/2 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:972 477 9328 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-46

Serial No.: 09/987,376 Examiner: Stephen E. Jones

For the above reasons, it is believed the foregoing Amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an interview, he/she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Lawrence Sewell

Reg. No. 22,753

Dated: 4/26/05

Alcatel USA Intellectual Property Department 3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2

Plano, TX 75075

Phone: (972) 519-3735 Fax: (972) 477-9328